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**The Sun.**

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication will have repeated articles returned they must be in care of the Editor.

TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2206.

vaguely that "it isn't as bad as it might be," or as bad as the Germans hoped it would be. They do not see that they need help themselves and stir up the Government to more energetic action. The way to make them see this is to hang the facts before their eyes and force them to take notice, to keep prodding them until they are wide awake. Lord Ronsay Cecil, British Blockade Minister, told the House of Commons on Friday that "all the anti-U-boat help we can have is needed and will help to bring about more quickly a decisive peace." The United States can give a great deal of help as soon as its urgent necessity is brought home to the American people. Let the British Admiralty discharge a weekly information torpedo at the American people. Then they will know what to do.

**Build the Air Fleet!**

The Senate obeyed the demand of enlightened public opinion on Saturday by passing without delay the bill providing for the creation of an air fleet adequate to crush the German flying machine and blind the armies of the Kaiser.

It is now the task of the executive department to act with the same speed in the manufacture of aircraft and the training of pilots, observers and gunners. The pocketbook of the nation has been opened; all the money that is needed is available, an unlimited number of men are ready for service, the industries of the country are at the disposal of the Government and the knowledge acquired by our allies in three years of war is at hand to guide us.

The Congress has done admirably in this vital project; the Executive must not fail us.

**Rainbows of Paternalism.**

The idealist will say of the plan suggested by Mr. HENRY M. FELL for automatic saving by American wage earners that it does not go far enough. The proposal that the employer turn over to the Government 5 per cent. of the earnings of the employed, this to be held at interest until the worker is 55 years of age or older, only scratches the surface of the great things a paternal Government might do for us. Why not go further, the idealist will say, than Germany has done? Wasting money is not the only American weakness.

How about lost time? Many of us are born last minutes, flinging ourselves upon a task only when the sun is slipping rapidly down the western toboggan of the sky. This is as bad, from the economic viewpoint, as failing to go to the savings bank after supper every Monday. If the Government would only take 5 per cent. of our time away and give it back when we need it—on vacation, say—it would help a lot. The method of this reform bears debating. Perhaps Uncle Sam could extract an hour a day from our time by an act of Congress. Maybe a commission would do it better. It is possible that the Government might take a child when it comes to the age of reason, which is 7 years by some canons and 2 years in adoring households, and convince it by kind deception that it was already away behind in the business of life. On the day when the citizen came to believe that he was 60 the Government would pop up, laughing heartily, and tell him that he was only 67 or so and that he had three years to spend.

Man, postprandial, is always going to make his will, to write a short autobiography for his descendants, and to take a course in Spanish. When he dies intestate the family guesses how old he was, and the only Spanish he knows is the word of his own weakness, manna. The Government could have attended to all these details for him as well as not.

Many men lack the courage of initiative. All their lives they look at menus without daring to order baked Alaska. The Government should step in and say, Stop this daily desert of rice pudding or apple pie and try something different. Eventually the conservative would find himself familiar with things he had only wondered about before: one piece bathing suits, second mortgages, Afghanistan cigars, Bear Mountain excursions, California sherry, Chicago, Turgeon, auction bridge and marriage.

A good Government could take a man who wastes his evenings at home playing with the dog and make of him by ukase a moving picture fanatic or a Kelly pool enthusiast. Many wives would be delighted to see a husband have to choose either a four act comedy drama or four months in Atlanta prison.

A Government that could take over procrastinating, unprepared, unsystematic citizenry by the ears and compel every man jack of them to own an extra pair of shoestrings would be the right sort, but that, of course, were millennium.

**Rationing Neutrals.**

Neutral countries have manifested much concern at the prospect that their food and other supplies from this country may be cut off or fatally reduced. A good deal has also been said about the difficulty of determining how much of any article may be exported to such a country as Holland or Sweden without affording a surplus which eventually finds its way into Germany.

The basic principle to be followed by those charged with controlling American exports would not seem to be difficult either to understand or to put into practice.

The starting point would seem to be the neutral's importation from the United States in 1915, the year preceding the war. The second consideration is the annual normal increase in this importation for a period of perhaps ten years preceding. The

third consideration is the present inaccessibility of any other usual sources of supply.

Let us take, for illustration, the case of a neutral country, A, which in 1915 imported from the United States 100,000 tons of a particular metal. Examination of A's imports of this metal from the United States shows an increase of about 7 per cent. each year over the importation of the year preceding. The neutral will therefore require from us in 1917 not 28 per cent. more of the metal than she took in 1915, but 31 per cent.

To resort to arithmetic averages is to neglect the principle of growth. It will not do, for example, to say that because A's imports of the metal have doubled in the years 1904-13 inclusive she requires 5,000 additional tons a year every year. That would give her only 20 per cent. more of the metal in 1917 than she took in 1913.

But, cries A, we used also to get a large supply of this metal from B, and this supply is now cut off by the war. To this the United States may reply:

"The burden of proof is upon you. Submit proof of your exact importations from B in the past and proof that you now receive none of this amount, or only a certain part of it. If you make out an affirmative case, producing satisfactory evidence, we will increase your ration by the amount necessary to replace the missing tonnage in so far as our needs and those of our allies permit."

This broad principle is subject to endless modifications with regard to each commodity and in respect of each country. If A is in a state of mobilization, with many factories closed or working half time, she will probably be unable to use for her own purposes even her American ration. It is necessary also to consider how the metal is fabricated and to what use the finished article is put. Obviously it must not be shipped to Germany.

The point that needs emphasis is that neutrals can be rationed by following a broad principle and that the application of this principle will insure against any serious injustice. As for the determination of quantities, it is a purely statistical matter for which there are available exact records in every European country as well as in our own.

**Russia as a "Federated Republic."**

A despatch from Kiev says that KERENSKY, the strong man of the new Russia, in a speech to an assembly of Ukrainians predicted that Russia will become "a federated republic" with a government modeled on that of the United States of America.

That a republic can endure despite differences of nationality perpetuated in language and customs the Swiss Federation strikingly shows. All Swiss laws are still proclaimed in German, French and Italian.

A federated republic will be a happy solution for Russia, particularly if it will avert dismemberment. Could not and would not Finland consent to become a State in a Russian Federation? Might not even Poland desire to belong to it?

In the German Empire are over two dozen free cities, kingdoms, dukedoms and what not, unequally yoked together under the overlordship of Prussia. The fact that they are one race speaking one language, with a common literature, historical background and tradition, has made the thing workable; it will never be past danger of breakup until the Prussian predominance has been overthrown, the States are equals and the whole political structure stands reformed into a representative and responsible government.

But a Russian Federation would involve a pledge of absolute State equality from the start, and would necessarily postulate representative government of, by and for all the peoples in it.

Not only would a successful Russian Federation probably hold Finland and possibly recruit Poland, but it would be a perpetual menace on the Hapsburg flank. All the Slavs of Austria would look yearningly over the border. Either they would seek to join the Russian Federation—or Slav Federation as it might more accurately be christened—or they would seek to convert the Dual Monarchy into a similar union of free States and free men. What a stroke for democracy either result would be!

**College Athletics in War Time.**

A large proportion of the most prominent college athletes in the country have entered the military or naval service of the United States; and the question has arisen how far it is wise or expedient to attempt to keep up competitive intercollegiate sports during the continuance of the war. Those institutions which have heretofore maintained a high record in football or baseball, but have now lost their star players, are naturally reluctant to run the risk of defeat with inferior men. On the other hand, the general abandonment of college sports will inevitably result in a deterioration in the manliness of American youth. This would be a grave evil and must be avoided.

One thing is certain: the colleges and universities are not going to shut up in consequence of the war. Thousands of young men will continue to seek education at these institutions and their physical condition should be promoted there as well as the acquisition of knowledge. This can best be done by encouraging the students to participate in every form of athletic sport in which the young American takes an interest; and no better way of arousing and preserving such interest has ever been devised than competition with other colleges and universities. The main purpose, of course, should be to make each indi-

vidual as much of a man as possible. Hence those sports should be specially encouraged which will prove attractive to the largest number of men and lead them to participate therein. Experience has demonstrated, however, that the incentive of competition with other institutions is essential to the highest and most useful development of college athletics.

It seems to us that the duty of those who control student activities in this field of endeavor is perfectly clear. They should see to it that every form of college sport continues to be practised which is in any wise conducive to the production of the type of college athletes who have hastened to the colors.

Our colleges and universities cannot produce too many men of this sort. The athletic discipline that made them will make others like them; and that is just what the nation wants.

College athletics must not be abandoned even in war time.

All the idle men in Bisbee, Ariz., are to be classed with vagrants and locked up. The Industrial Workers of the World will regard this as the worst blow yet struck by despotism against freedom.

Crowns Prince again beaten.—Despatch from the front.

This heroic case of Mars ought to be familiar with the process by this time.

The *Fossache Zeitung* has informed its readers that women are being enlisted as soldiers here "to maintain order all over the country." We had not heard of this, but if the women set out to do that job we have no doubt they will succeed. Fortunately it is for the Prussian soldiers that we intend to send against them nothing more formidable than the Ladies from Hell.

The strength of the public affection and respect for Mr. EDSON is demonstrated by the fact that they receive the announcement of his perfection of a talking machine that projects sound for 250 yards.

Peppermint forces enjoy champagne.—*Peppermint headline.*

Spread the news that champagne is attainable by the soldiers in France. There will be a rush of volunteers that will make the selective draft unnecessary.

Chancellor MICHAELIS known as little of the United States as the Prussian military leaders and diplomats knew of England before the war. In David LLOYD GEORGE's opinion, the education of the junker is in progress and will be completed regardless of the cost, but the world cannot afford to let another crew so enlightened play with firearms in the future.

Government warning of poison in plaster causes public against use of such remedies; samples being analyzed for germs.—*Newspaper headline.*

The Department of Justice is not inclined to give credit to the report that Prussian agents are seeking to poison civilians by distributing germ charged court plaster, yet Prussia has built herself a reputation for ruthless villainy that makes her suspect. The whole world knows that if she has not done this thing she is entirely capable of it.

**"THE SUN" ACCEPTS THESE CONGRATULATIONS.**

And It Is Glad to Have Done Well a Bit of Its Bit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Permit me to congratulate you on being the only New York newspaper published this morning which gives the draft number in any fashion of practical utility to a registrant of this city and accompanies them with accurate instructions.

NEW YORK, July 21.

**THE TAX ON SALES.**

**A Civil War Levy Which Might Work Better Than a Tax on Profits.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: An important source of revenue during the civil war was a tax on sales.

The practice was to add the tax in full to each bill, thus passing the tax on to the consumer direct. It worked well. I, as a junior clerk, was charged with the duty of compiling the reports made monthly to the Collector of Internal Revenue for one district, payments being made monthly.

It is not recalled that any objection was made to the method, and when the tax was repealed the consumer was instantly benefited.

The method does not seem to have, so far, received serious consideration, and yet why not? No new machinery is needed and little if any additional expense is involved either to the Government or to the taxpayer. You have no army of expert accountants wrestling with disputes as to what are profits and what not.

A steel maker before the war bought "melting cranes" around \$15 a ton gross; I have recently bought for delivery in the third quarter at \$55 a ton gross. Pig iron has jumped from \$14 to \$36 and \$35.

Permanence, before the war \$40 to \$42, now commands anywhere from \$375 to \$425.

What obstacle to trade would a tax of 1 per cent. upon sales be to a purchaser? Experts with a knowledge of the business of the country can lay before the Congress illustrative figures showing the magnitude of revenue available, and the tax would be so distributed that the ultimate consumer would never notice it. By "ultimate consumer" I here mean the individual. He who wishes to avoid the tax has only to refrain from buying.

I have not at hand any statistics showing the annual total of sales of the country, but assume that it amounts to \$20,000,000,000. If it does a tax of 1 per cent. would produce \$200,000,000. Leave profits beyond dividends for the liquidation of capital borrowings, for extensions and the development of improved processes; purposes to which excess profits in trade always go. A violation of the economic principle involved here is the last resource which the taxing power should avail itself.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 21.

Yes.

**DIVERSIFICATION IS VEXATION.**

Mr. Motto had one. It was summed up in the word "Diversity!" He is rather a serious soul, so that his frivolous acquaintances love to greet him with: "Wotto, Motto!" Or else they ask him if he has been framed yet. But Motto has never been in the victim of any worse conspiracies than his own earnestness hatches.

Diversification made a mighty impression upon him in 1914. At that time a second cousin, owning and operating a cotton plantation in the South, had been nearly ruined by fidelity to a single crop. Cotton is king, and kings have a way of abdicating on short notice. The price of this king dropped 50-60 per cent., and the second cousin had to come North to get enough money to live on.

Motto opened his safe to help him, and at the same time showed him certain shares of stock and bonds. There were not many of them, but the twice as wide a mine, a car foundry, steel works, textile manufacturing, railway, the credit of a municipality and a real estate enterprise were represented. The second cousin was impressed. He went home and raised something to eat as well as to wear.

When the United States went to war Motto resolved to become a better unit of thrift. Pursuing his policy of diversification he bought several sheep, a cow, two horses and a number of goats. He already had hens.

Within three months one of his horses was killed by a car, and the other had been taken by a hawk. Motto insists he has read that cavalry will be used abroad dismounted. The cow died—apparently a natural death. The sheep were poisoned by grazing in unfavorable places. The goats, which were taken from the neighbors, mainly because of their unbridled appetite, but in one instance by reason of outrages to a neutral.

Surveying the wreckage of his hopes, Motto is glad that he did not invest in a few choice bulls and bears.

**NOTICE TO KNITTERS.**

Here Are the Particulars of Just What Our Sailor Boys Want.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Replying to your many readers who seem to be in a quandary as to whether or not knitted garments are wanted or really worn by the men in the navy we would like to submit the following letter for their information:

UNITED STATES NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE, OFFICE OF RECRUITING INDEPENDENT DIVISION, 225-227 WEST FORTI-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK.

Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, Chairman, Committee, Navy League, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York.

DEAR MRS. SATTERLEE: I wish to thank you and commend the highly efficient services you ladies are performing in looking after the comfort of the men of the navy. The fact that you are doing is highly appreciated by the men of the navy, particularly in the matter of bodily covering. A wool made sweater is certainly a comfortable covering; however, sweaters and such like are no less desirable during the rigors of a stormy watch at sea in the winter time. I can tell you this from personal experience.

It has been called to my attention that certain people are stating that men of the navy do not want these articles. I fail to find any case where they are not highly appreciated. I have seen more than one more than one of such articles of apparel.

Yours very truly,  
JOHN GRANT,  
Lieutenant-Commander, U. S. Navy, Recruiting Inspector, Eastern Division.

There are many rumors circulating that we would like to refute and explain. We are informed by very authoritative source that many of the volunteers have come from small towns and villages from all parts of the United States and that they have not the least idea of their backs—and in some instances it is just within the amount that the law demands. The knitted garments are not only wanted but desperately needed, to help complete the outfits furnished by the Navy Department.

Gray Mufflers vs. Blue Mufflers: There are many rumors circulating that we wish to announce that principally for the sake of uniformity the navy decided on gray; undoubtedly the dye situation of to-day had much to do with it. Blue mufflers will be accepted, but the gray are preferred. According to rumor the mufflers were changed from blue to gray because they were poisoning and killing the men.

Helmetts vs. Mufflers: Helmetts are preferred from those who are able to knit them. Not because mufflers are "not wanted or worn," but because they are used to "polish the brasses" or to "clean the guns," but for the simple reason that the machine made garments are making the mufflers, and if those who are able to knit the helmetts we can fill the sets.

Knitted Helmetts vs. Flannel Helmetts: We are not substituting, nor do we intend to substitute, flannel helmetts for knitted helmetts. The flannel helmetts will not be received by the Navy Department.

Socks: There can be no doubt or question as to which is the better, the hand knitted sock or the machine made sock. We are told by officers who have returned from the trenches that the life of a machine made sock is ten hours and the life of a hand made sock five days and sometimes longer. The hand made sock can be mended. The machine made sock must be thrown away.

Hand Made Garments vs. Machine Made Garments: Take any woman in any shop and give her a choice of a hand made garment or a machine made garment—it would be futile to try to palm off the machine made garment upon her. Hand made garments are more durable, warmer, better quality, in fact better in every respect.

Fee: Dame Rumor has also circulated that we are asking each sailor \$4 for the sets. This statement is absolutely false. We are giving these garments gratis. During the past five days we have given 2,515 articles to our commandos who have applied here direct. To date we have sent out from these headquarters 28,574 articles. These garments have cost the Government or the boys who received them absolutely nothing.

Free Wool: \$435.50 worth of wool was distributed free Wednesday—Free Wool Day—to those who are willing to "do their bit," but are unable to purchase. This exhausted our free wool fund. To date we have distributed \$1,956.60 worth of wool free. Donations are earnestly requested for this fund in order that we may carry on this particular branch of our work.

LOUISA PIERSON BATTENBERG, Chairman, Committee, Navy League, New York, July 21.

Yes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Can an American citizen be drafted to join the American Red Cross for service?

NEW YORK, July 21.

Immortals on Tour.

From the *Argosy* Magazine.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Farrell came to New York last week. The Hon. Mr. Farrell's journey was less profitable than usual. He brought home only two new stories, or, at least, Mr. Farrell's extended trip yielded from twenty to thirty stories.

**SOME POOR TEAM WORK.**

Not Only in Shipbuilding but in Profits and Taxation Schemes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It is perfectly evident that we cannot succeed in the gigantic undertaking we have entered upon without team work on the part of all the activities and agencies involved. Needless to say in most important directions we are not getting it. The two men charged with the vital and pressing duty of giving us ships are openly by the ears, preventing any progress, and the man at the top does nothing to remedy the situation, though clothed with full power. How long would the executive of a corporation permit such a state of things to continue?

Another direction in which team work is painfully lacking is the method of raising revenue and the control of prices. Congress and the Treasury are under which very large proportion of revenue for war purposes will be drawn from so-called excess profits and from incomes.

Thereupon the President issues a proclamation to the effect that profits and income must be cut to the bone. Where in that case will the revenue come from? Why not encourage every one to make all the profit he can legitimately and tax the income?

That would reassure and promote business, which is beginning to show signs of uncertainty and bewilderment, which if continued much longer will have serious results. TEAM WORK.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., July 21.

**THE SOFT COAL CASES.**

A Waste of Time and Money the Taxpayers Should Not Ignore.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It seems to me that some invaluable missionary work could be accomplished by the reading and thinking people would take time thoroughly to digest and realize the useless expense which has been thrown upon the poor, long suffering public by the Government's suit against the soft coal concerns, operators and agents.

The pernicious activities of the various Government officials and committees have reached proportions where it seems to me that some action must be taken for their removal or some restraint put upon their activities. The cost of this trial in counsel fees alone is estimated at about \$750,000, which is a reasonable charge considering the work involved. Besides the loss of time in travel, attendance at hearings, compilation of useless information, withdrawal from activities at the mines and collieries of the owners, operators and officials when the need of the greatest possible production is paramount, will undoubtedly involve an additional expense equal to that of the counsel fees. This entire amount will and should be added to the cost of coal consumed by the public.

The people at large are now making and will be compelled to make a great many sacrifices in order to carry on necessary and legitimate expenses which the Government is carrying on in the war and continuing its own work, and a start must be made somewhere in curbing useless activities.

CHARLES T. ELLIS,  
NEW YORK, July 21.

**SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES.**

A High School Graduate Comes to Their Defence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have just graduated from a high school and wish to express my views in regard to the assembly exercises.

During the latter part of the school year we had three assemblies a week. These occurred on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Monday the scholars never got the chance of being bored, as the minutes were very precious to our professor. On Friday we had our special assembly with the school orchestra. Now, every one takes a great interest in the school musicians, and therefore if we did not have assembly the whole school would be at a loss.

I cannot agree with Mr. Wormser, whose letter I am answering, that he can recall the hated assemblies which he had to sit through. The brief morning exercises were always an inspiration to me. I shall always remember how enthusiastically we used to sing our school song, "The Yellow and the Blue."

There is nothing else in a student's high school life which has more to do with patriotism than the assembly. The salute to the flag, the singing of "America," the recitation of Spangled Banner, the patriotic quotations, all served to awaken the true patriotism of the school body.

Because of these reasons I think that if assembly was done away with the work of the school would be lowered.

MARGARET CAMERON LAYMAN,  
NEWBROOK, July 21.

**GOVERNMENT INERTIA.**

It Does Not Adjust Its Practice to the Needs of the Hour.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The majority of clerical positions in the Federal, State and municipal service under civil service rules are limited to males from 18 to 35 and in some instances to 45 years of age.

Would it not be well for the nation, which is now at war and requires the services of as many able bodied young men as can be procured for fighting machines, to suspend, at least for the duration of the war, the age limit in civil service positions and thereby make it possible for men of 45 years and over to do this work?

Even for a Federal position for accountant (Civil Service application No. 1312), although the demand for this work is a direct result of the war, the age limit has been set at 45 years. Why are men of 46 years and over not as well or perhaps even better qualified to perform this work and give the younger men of 23 years up to 35 years a chance to help their country by enlisting in the army, or any other branch of the military service?

NEW YORK, July 21.

**Friday the Thirteenth.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: You speak of the Kristianafjord disaster as "a singular wreck."

What is singular about this event? The ship sailed on Friday the thirteenth. Did not that circumstance warrant an eventful voyage? TRAFFIC MANAGER.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., July 21.

Immortals on Tour.

From the *Argosy* Magazine.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Farrell came to New York last week. The Hon. Mr. Farrell's journey was less profitable than usual. He brought home only two new stories, or, at least, Mr. Farrell's extended trip yielded from twenty to thirty stories.

**THE PART OF THE SAVINGS BANKS IN FINANCING THE WAR.**

Their Deposits and the Use to Which They Are Now Being Put Examined by a Competent Authority.

How can the mutual savings banks of New York State and the savings institutions of the country best promote the interests of the Government of the United States in this trying time?

The SUN of July 20, under the head of "War Thrift Urged for Wage Earners," gives an account of a meeting held last Thursday by representatives of the Eastern Federal Reserve districts at 50 Wall street, at which it appears that "Basil P. Blackett of the British Treasury told the bankers and business men who attended the conference of the methods employed by his country in borrowing the funds of small investors cheaply and effectively."

C. B. Keene, director of the United States postal savings bank, expressed the opinion that "the postal savings banks would be of great aid in the proposed campaign here."

Mr. Blackett explained that \$5,000 war savings associations of Great Britain issue certificates at a flat rate of 15s. 6d., which at the end of twelve months can be cashed at 15s. 9d., and thereafter the cash value increases at the rate of a penny a month until at the end of five years they can be cashed to bring the holder a rate of more than 5 per cent. compound interest.

Further, that on January 1, 1916, the restrictions as to what any one depositor could deposit in the post office or savings banks were removed. In the year 1916 the rate of deposit increased to \$8,000,000 a week. In January and February, 1917, including post office subscriptions to the 5 per cent. war loan, and allowing for withdrawals from the savings banks, the total subscriptions of the small investors were at least \$40,000,000.

Small investors, which included war savings banks, have invested at the close of 1916 in the Government \$118,178,000. War savings associations subscribed one-twentieth of that amount, which they have reached to one-fifth of such subscriptions.

Mr. Keene, director of the postal savings bank, is to "lay before the Post Office Department, as well as the Treasury, the details of yesterday's informal conference."

A New York State mutual savings bank paying 4 per cent. interest, compounded at each period of six months, would net the owner of a cash having an initial deposit of \$100 about \$121.44 at the end of five years, or \$184 over 4 per cent. straight interest.

It should be noted that 4 per cent. United States Government bonds are still quoted at 104 1/2, 5 per cent. United Kingdom of Great Britain bonds at 98 1/2.

The mutual savings banks of New York State had total resources on January 1, 1916, of about \$2,140,000,000. Of this amount about one-half is invested in real estate mortgages, \$1,070,000,000; in round figures, in bonds of New York State about \$23,000,000; in railroad mortgage bonds, \$354,000,000; in municipal bonds, \$328,172,000; in other States bonds and cities of other States, \$189,000,000; held in available funds in banks and trust companies, \$150,000,000.

All of this investment is at present serving to the best advantage the interest of the United States Government, both by reason of its part in underlying the source of the Government's most stable revenues and affording all commerce and all Government sinews of both peace and war.

And the President and his Cabinet will not overlook the later conditions in giving consideration to any scheme for raising funds for war purposes through which it may be proposed to direct from their natural channels the small streams which make up our rivers of commerce, or offer high explosive interest in the guise of thrift inducements, to tear through the delicately constructed machinery whereby the accumulation of small savings, consisting of the dimes of school children and the dollars of the wage earner, are made a part of what which become a staple in many markets.

ALEX. W. JOHNSON,  
Treasurer Schenectady Savings Bank, SCHENECTADY, N. Y., July 21.

**OUR BOYS IN FRANCE.**

Maybe They Will Show Europeans the Other Side of Us.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The despatch printed in THE SUN describing the activities of our American troops in France was to me most interesting and suggestive.

Among other things we read that our first detachment of American soldiers were having up and behind the battle lines are being very closely and interestedly observed by the people of France. Their fondness for drinking water, the character of their music played at the evening concerts, and their many appearance and powers of endurance are all provoking delighted comment and some surprise.

We have known, of course, that we were different in some respects from the countries from which we were derived, and we took it for granted that our peculiarities were known to those of Europe who commented on us and described us.

American have travelled a good deal around Europe—to a